

**ROSEVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES FOR
August 5, 2021 6:30 p.m.**

PRESENT: Arneson, Baggenstoss, Boulton, Brown, Heikkila, Hoag, Ybarra
ABSENT: Carlson, Dahlstrom, Lenhart
STAFF: Brokke, Christensen, Johnson

1) INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Hoag introduced the meeting and noted that this month’s meeting was an in-person meeting with a virtual option. The public was still encouraged to participate in the meeting using the Zoom platform. Chair Hoag also relayed that as of August 5, all staff are required to wear facemasks at City Hall and all guests are encouraged to as well.

Commissioner Lenhart and Vice-Chair Dahlstrom previously alerted staff that they will not be in attendance of the August Parks and Recreation Commission meeting.

2) ROLL CALL/PUBLIC COMMENT

Roll Call Commissioners: Arneson, Baggenstoss, Boulton, Brown, Heikkila, Ybarra and Hoag.

Chair Hoag called for public comment by members of the audience. No audience in attendance.

3) APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JUNE 1, 2021 MEETING

Commissioner Heikkila moved to approve the minutes. Commissioner Arneson seconds.

Roll Call

Ayes: Arneson, Baggenstoss, Boulton, Brown, Heikkila, Hoag, and Ybarra.

Nays: None.

Abstain: None.

4) PRESENTATION OF MINNESOTA RECREATION AND PARK ASSOCIATION (MRPA) AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Staff introduced Tracy Peterson, Awards Committee head with the Minnesota Recreation and Parks Association (MRPA) and Parks and Recreation Assistant Director for the City of Edina, MN who was presenting on behalf of the MRPA. Peterson provided background on the MRPA and the Awards Committee which oversees professional awards for individuals and the Award of Excellence

program which recognizes projects. The Natural Resources Stewardship Program was nominated, and won, an Award of Excellence in 2020 under the “Volunteer Initiatives” category. Peterson congratulated Roseville Parks and Recreation on their commitment and creative approach to the Natural Resources Stewardship Program during the pandemic. She specifically noted the ingenuity and creativity shown by staff which allowed members of the community to continue engaging in volunteer outreach through adapted events such as the Central Park flower planting, tree planting and food donation apple picking.

Brokke thanked the staff and volunteers for their commitment and initiative to the project.

5) MIDLAND LEGACY ESTATES PARK DEDICATION UPDATE

Staff provided the location, history of the proposed development and an update on the Park Dedication proposal. On May 4, 2021 the Commission reviewed and recommended land. Adjustments have since been made to the proposal by the developer and those have been resubmitted to the city for review. The updated plans still include the .61 acre of 95% useable Park Dedication land in the SE corner. However, the shape of the parcel may change to be slightly narrower.

The developer has also proposed to sell to the city, for a price yet to be finalized, an additional .24 acre of land just north of the required .61 acre. If the land could be acquired for a reasonable price it would allow for a .85 acre park of flat useable land. This additional acquisition would be in line with Goal 3 of the Master Plan which stressed the importance of acquiring parkland to allow equitable access to all residents.

Commissioner Ybarra asked what would happen to the additional land if the city did not purchase it. Staff responded that the contingency plan is to add it into two existing lots and it would become private property.

The Commission discussed their support of purchasing the additional parkland.

Chair Hoag motioned to recommend that the city pursue the purchase of the additional .24 acres of land, providing the land can be purchased at a reasonable price and turned over to the city as useable parkland. Commissioner Heikkila seconds.

Roll Call

Ayes: Arneson, Baggenstoss, Boulton, Brown, Heikkila, Hoag, and Ybarra.

Nays: None.

Abstain: None.

6) **DISCUSS SEPTEMBER LISTENING SESSION ON THE POCAHONTAS PARK NAME CONVERSATION**

Staff provided an overview of the thorough feedback and outreach that the Commission engaged in through the process of learning more about the appropriateness of the name of Pocahontas Park. The outreach process was defined in the Engagement and Analysis Plan:

- Objective
 - To engage the impacted communities to assess the impact of the name on their feeling of being “welcomed, included and respected” in Roseville, including the:
 - Native American people who live in Roseville
 - Indigenous populations of Minnesota who have expertise
 - Neighbors of Pocahontas Park
 - Entire Roseville community

Staff also shared the one page informational flyer, pictures of community engagement and articles from external media on the Pocahontas Park name conversations.

The Commission discussed Roseville’s park naming policy and how it may be utilized if a new name is needed.

Commissioner Arneson suggested potentially naming the park Dakota Park.

Chair Hoag confirmed that the listening session would be in the style of a formal public hearing, with limited additional meeting topics.

7) **STAFF REPORT**

a) **NEW OR RELEVANT COMMUNICATIONS AND UPDATE ITEMS**

- Staff introduced Zeke Walker the summer department Intern. Zeke is going into Parks and Recreation at Mankato State University and is attending the Commission meeting as part of his summer learning.
- The Park Dedication Ordinance with the language adjustments that were recommended by the Commission was approved by the City Council.
- The OVAL bonding projects and architect (B32) was approved by the City Council.
- The Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Accelerated Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Management Program was approved by the City Council. Also, an additional \$50,000 was approved for ash tree removals this year, due to the significance of EAB on the city’s trees.
- The inclusive playground at Central Park Victoria is open. A short celebratory ribbon cutting dedication will be at the Discover Your Parks event on Wednesday, August 11 from 6pm-8pm at Central Park Victoria West.

- Outreach on the proposal to convert the Evergreen Park to pickleball and refurbishing the Fairview tennis courts has been well received.
- Roseville Parks and Recreation staff continue to monitor the COVID-19 updates.
- The citywide garage sale will be September 9-10. Registration is still open to get your home listed on the citywide garage sale map.
- The fall 2021/early winter 2022 recreation program brochure will be in homes in the next week.

8) **OTHER**

Meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Danielle Christensen, Department Assistant